Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00

EA-06 AEC-05 ISO-00 /020 W

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3260 AMEMBASSY LONDON INFO USLO PEKING

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EXCON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ESTC HK UK US

SUBJ: FCO REVIEW OF EXPORT CONTROL POLICY

SUMMARY: THE FCO IS REVIEWING HONG KONG EXCON PROCEDURES REGARDING RE-EXPORTS OF US ORIGIN STRATEGIC GOODS. SUBJECT TO THE DEPARTMENT'S CONCURRENCE, WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE EMBASSY ENQUIRING AT THE FCO ABOUT REASONS FOR AND PROBABLE OUTCOME OF THIS REVIEW.

1. THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT'S DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
AND INDUSTRY (DCI) WHICH LOCALLY ADMINISTERS THE UK COCOM
EXPORT CONTROLS, HAS SENT A REPLY TO AN ENQUIRY FROM THE
FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE (FCO) ABOUT THE BASIS FOR
CURRENT DCI EXPORT CONTROL PROCEDURES REGARDING RE-EXPORTS
THROUGH HONG KONG OF US-ORIGIN COCOM -CONTROLLED GOODS TO
THE PRC. DCI BELIEVES THAT THE FCO ENQUIRY CAME AFTER
REVIEW OF ROUTINE DCI MONTHLY REPORTS OF RE-EXPORT
APPROVALS REVEALED THAT DCI HAD APPROVED SOME CASES WITHOUT THE
FCO'S PRIOR CONCURRENCE.

2. PRESENT DCI PROCEDURE IN CASES OF RE-EXPORT OF US ORIGIN STRATEGIC GOODS WITH A USDOC EXPORT CONTROL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NUMBER IS TO REQUEST A CONGEN LETTER OF CONCURRENCE

WHICH STATES THAT WE CONSIDER THE SHIPMENT BONA FIDE AND THUS HAVE NO OBJECTION TO IT. ON THAT BASIS, DCI ISSUES THE HKG EXPORT PERMIT WITHOUT REFERRING IT TO FCO. THE BOEING INS SPARE PARTS CASE IS AN EXAMPLE OF THIS PROCEDURE (SEE HONG KONG 10380 NOTAL).

3. OTHER EXPLANATIONS FOR THIS SUDDEN FCO INTEREST IN ROUTINE MONTHLY REPORTS ARE ALSO POSSIBLE. IT SEEMS POSSIBLE THAT THE PRC HAS COMPLAINED TO THE HMG ON THE DELAY INVOLVED IN OBTAINING USG CONCURRENCE (PERHAPS STEMMING FROM THE BOEING CASE, WHERE THE PRC WAS CLEARLY AWARE THAT THE USG WAS THE CAUSE OF DCI'S WEEK-LONG DELAY IN ISSUING THE EXPORT LICENSE). ANOTHER POSSIBILITY IS FCO CONCERN THAT PRESENT PROCEDURES ARE TOO LAX AND IN EFFECT ABDICATE PARTY OF THE UK'S COCOM RESPONSIBILITIES IN HONG KONG TO THE CONGEN.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: SUBJECT TO THE DEPARTMENT'S CONCURRENCE, WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE EMBASSY APPROACHING THE FCO TO DETERMINE THE REASONS FOR, AND THE PROBABLE OUTCOME OF THIS REVIEW. CROSS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: POLICIES, STRATEGIC TRADE CONTROLS, EXPORT CONTROLS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 21 DEC 1974 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974HONGK13778

Document Number: 1974HONGK13778 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A Film Number: D740372-0387 From: HONG KONG Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741217/aaaaanxo.tel

Line Count: 83

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Office: ACTION EB

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: ElyME

Review Content Flags: Review Date: 26 JUN 2002

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <31 MAR 2003 by ElyME>

Review Markings:

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN

Status: NATIVE

Subject: FCO REVIEW OF EXPORT CONTROL POLICY SUMMARY: THE FCO IS REVIEWING HONG KONG EXCON PROCEDURES TAGS: ESTC, HK, UK, US

To: STATE LONDON

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005